

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6889

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, GR, TU

SUBJECT: RE TURKISH MISSILES

REF: ATHENS 9901

1. THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE TURKS HAVE MOVED "MISSILES" TO POSITIONS FACING THE GREEK ISLANDS CONTINUED TODAY TO REVERBERATE THROUGHOUT GREECE. THE MISSILE STORY WAS AGAIN THE LEAD ITEM IN THE SEPTEMBER 17 PRESS. WHEN NOTED BY THE PRESS, DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ELLSWORTH'S COMMENTS ON THIS MATTER WERE NOT ACCEPTED AS REFUTATION OF SENATOR PELL'S "CHARGES" THAT MISSILES HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM THE TURKISH-SOVIET BORDER AREA TO THE AEGEAN COAST.

2. EVEN SOME OF THE MOST SOBER AND BALANCED OF EMBASSY CONTACTS HAVE SHOWN A DISPOSITION TO BELIEVE THESE "CHARGES" AND TO ACCEPT SOME OF THE WILD SPECULATION IN THE PRESS ON WHERE TURKEY MAY HAVE OBTAINED SUCH MISSILES (E.G. TO VIMA - LIBERAL, OPPOSITION- CLAIMS THAT THE SHAH OF IRAN PROVIDED PERSHING'S
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TO TURKEY "WITH THE APPROVAL" OF SECRETARY KISSINGER).

IN GENERAL THE IMPRESSION IS BEING BUILD UP, TO THE POINT WHERE IT COULD BECOME AN ESTABLISHED "TRUTH", THAT TURKEY HAS DEPLOYED PERSHING MISSILES NEAR THE ISLANDS AND THAT IT DID SO WITH, AT LEAST, THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE USG.

3. COMMENT: WE HAVE BEEN DOING OUR BEST TO KNOCK THIS STORY DOWN BUT, AS EXPLAINED IN TELECONS TO WASHINGTON. IT HAS BEEN AN UPHILL BATTLE. GOG OFFICIALS ARE ALSO TRYING TO BE HELPFUL AND DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF TOLD A REPORTER LAST NIGHT IN REPLY TO QUESTIONS AFTER CONFIRMING A MEETING EARLIER IN THE DAY WITH AMBASSADOR KUBISCH, THE "THE AMERICAN SIDE" HAS PROVIDED CATEGORICAL REASSURANCES THAT THERE WERE NO PERSHING MISSILES IN TURKEY. THIS STATEMENT HAS BEEN HELPFUL BUT HAS NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE TORRENT OF PRESS ON THIS STORY. AS WE HAVE REQUESTED TELEPHONICALLY, IF DOD OR STATE CAN ISSUE A FLAT DENIAL ON THIS MATTER IT COULD BE MOST HELPFUL. IF NOT, IF WE COULD BE FURNISHED THE EXACT TEXT OF WHAT DEPUTY SECRETARY ELLSWORTH SAID OR BE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE A STATEMENT HERE AT OUR DISCRETION, IF THE STORY DOES NOT DIE OVER WEEKEND, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT.
KUBISCH

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